

This Week at Glade

(April 15-21, 2024)



**Glade
Church**
faith · diversity · justice

Visit the Glade Church website at gladeucc.org

Word for the Week

Shepherd



Psalm 23 (CEB)

- ¹The LORD is my shepherd. I lack nothing.
²He lets me rest in grassy meadows; he leads me to restful waters;
³he keeps me alive. He guides me in proper paths for the sake of his good name.
⁴Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no danger because you are with me. Your rod and your staff—they protect me.
⁵You set a table for me right in front of my enemies. You bathe my head in oil; my cup is so full it spills over!
⁶Yes, goodness and faithful love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the LORD's house as long as I live.

Kelly's Thoughts

This beautiful and simple psalm doesn't need much explanation. It tends to be profoundly personal and intimate for each person. These words sit with the believer, giving comfort through sleepless nights and uncertain days with the image of the Christ as their shepherd. While we as sheep are often aimless, easily startled, not always bright, but always hungry, are at turns affectionate or stubborn and prone to wander into harm's way, our shepherd carries us to waters that give us rest, heals us when we are afflicted, and retrieves us when we are lost.

Our shepherd feeds us when the world of our enemies is against us, caring for us all of our days. Our shepherd bathes our heads in oil, which serves two purposes. But for the context of this psalm, it reminds us that sheep injure their heads at times by butting against things, even other sheep, or in our case, other sheep that we view as our enemies. The oil helps to clean and soothe the injury and to enhance healing. And wherever we wander, no matter if we're in the darkest valley, surrounded by those who wish us harm, God finds us and guides us back to the light of Their righteous paths, both for our benefit and the benefit of the work we do in God's name. God is always our faithful caretaker.

Kelly Bryant

Office Hours: Thursday, April 18th, 9-3. If you need them outside of these times, please don't hesitate to reach them at 540-521-9993. bryantkj@gmail.com.

OTHER WORDS

Adapted from:
Shepherd Me, O God
by **Marty Haugen**

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want,
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,
I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,
my spirit shall sing the music of your Name.

Though I should wander the valley of death,
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope.

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my power to hold.
Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.

For a performance video of this song, go to [https://www.youtube.com > watch?v=wdiusy9YUYc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wdiusy9YUYc)

Lectionary Readings:

Psalm 23

Acts 4:5-12

1 John 3:16-20

John 10:11-18

Join us for worship at 11:00 a.m. every Sunday Morning

Attend in-person at 1600 Glade Rd. Blacksburg, or on Zoom at

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88914981619?pwd=Q3E4Rk95d2llZGtONlVqSDcrMm1xdz09/#_success



*Easter Sunday was March 31, but **EASTERTIDE** in the Church Year continues until **Pentecost** which this year is May 19. That means that we have 6 Sundays yet to go as we celebrate Resurrection!
*Alleluia! Christ is Risen!**



The Nursery NEEDS Volunteers

The nursery is set up so whoever works there can view/listen to the worship service. Thus, you can volunteer and still be in “virtual attendance” at worship! If four people volunteer, it would mean one Sunday each month for each volunteer.

Please consider **signing up for the nursery program**: <https://signup.com/go/ivEyNZK>

Signup to Provide Snacks for After Worship Fellowship

There is a **signup sheet outside the sanctuary** to sign up to bring a small snack for the fellowship time following worship each Sunday. It can be cookies, fruit, or other small items. Remember, however, that the first Sunday of each month is “Birthday Celebration” when small cakes are welcome.

Opportunities for this Week

Coffee & Devotion Group Meets on Zoom Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 am

This virtual get-together meets at 10 a.m. on Zoom and lasts for about an hour for a time to meet people, share thoughts, hear a brief devotion, and join in prayer.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89240288592?pwd=KzhRWlJiQTkzWWRIYTNuRkdPaUNqUT09>

Little children, let's not love with words or speech but with action and truth. This is how we will know that we belong to the truth and reassure our hearts in in God's presence. Even if our hearts condemn us, God is greater than our hearts and knows all things. Dear friends, if our hearts don't condemn us, we have confidence in relationship to God. 1 John 3:18-21

Radical Conversations Meets Saturday, April 20 at 11:00 am

Radical Conversations meets from 11:00-12:15 each Saturday morning at the church. This is a time for open discussion of a wide range of topics. Everyone is invited to suggest topics as well as lead in the discussion of a topic that can be studying a book in the Bible, a religious topic, or we often discuss topics that are “secular” with “religious” significance.

Everyone is welcome to this informal discussion and fellowship group — many who attend do not attend Glade and we enjoy a wide variety of opinions in our discussions each week.

Laundry Love washes clothes on Sunday, April 21 from 2:00—4:00 p.m.

Laundry Love has opportunities to volunteer.

VOLUNTEER FOR LAUNDRY LOVE

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We believe in the triune God: Creator, resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church, and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.

We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belong to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.

We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.

We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.

We believe in the power of peace, and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.

We are a people of possibility. In the UCC, members, congregations and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking, ...